

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

November, 2001

INDIANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2001

Senator Robert Garton

Chairman

Columbus

Speaker John Gregg

Vice-Chairman

Sandborn

Senator Richard Young

Milltown

Representative Brian Bosma

Indianapolis

Senator Harold Wheeler

Larwill

Representative Mark Kruzan

Bloomington

Senator Joseph Harrison

Attica

Representative Dale Grubb

Covington

Senator Patricia Miller

Indianapolis

Representative William Cochran

New Albany

Senator Thomas Wyss

Fort Wayne

Representative Charlie Brown

Gary

Senator James Lewis

Charlestown

Representative Kathy Richardson

Noblesville

Senator Earline Rogers

Gary

Representative Richard Mangus

Lakeville

Philip J. Sachtleben
Executive Director
Legislative Services Agency

INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM

Membership Roster

Senators

Kent Adams, Chairperson
Warsaw

Marvin Riegsecker
Goshen

Allie Craycraft
Selma

Connie Sipes
New Albany

Representatives

Vanessa Summers
Indianapolis

Dennie Oxley
English

Robert Alderman
Fort Wayne

Cleo Duncan
Greensburg

Lay Members

Hugh Beebe
New Haven

Susan Hansen
Indianapolis

Michael Carmin
Upland

Herbert Grulke
Crown Point

Nan Daley
Fort Wayne

Staff

David Hoppmann
Fiscal Analyst for the Commission

Ann Naughton
Attorney for the Commission

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.state.in.us/legislative/>.

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

The Indiana General Assembly established the Commission under IC 12-11-7 and directed the Commission to do the following:

- (1) Study the service delivery system for individuals with autism and the families of individuals with autism, including the following:
 - (A) An analysis of the number of Indiana citizens believed to have autism.
 - (B) Funding amounts and sources.
 - (C) Types of expenditures and services provided.
 - (D) The number of clients served.
 - (E) Relationships among agencies and organizations.
 - (F) Residential options for individuals with autism.
- (2) Study the need and effectiveness of programs for individuals with autism.
- (3) Oversee and update the development of a comprehensive plan for services for individuals of all ages with autism including an interagency cooperation agreement among the following:
 - (A) The Department of Education.
 - (B) The Division of Mental Health.
 - (C) The Division of Family and Children.
 - (D) The Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services.
 - (E) Any other appropriate agencies.

The Legislative Council did not assign any specific topics to the Commission for the 2001 interim.

II. INTRODUCTION, INFORMATION, and RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission met two times during the 2001 interim session on October 10, 2001, and on October 29, 2001.

The Commission is not required to file a final report, however the Commission requested an informational report on the activities of the Commission during the 2001 interim.

The Commission received an update on: (a) the Medicaid developmental disability waiver; (b) the Medicaid autism waiver amendment required under HEA 1647-2001 to include coverage of applied behavior analysis treatment; (c) availability of Medicaid waiver slots and waiver waiting lists; (d) insurance coverage for autism as required under HEA 1122-2001; (e) information concerning teacher training requirements for teachers who teach children with autism; (f) recent work of the Indiana Resource Center for Autism; (g) federal vocational rehabilitation funding; and (h) methods of care for children with autism.

The Commission adopted by consent a resolution concerning autism coverage under health benefit plans governed by the federal employee retirement income security act, for introduction during the 2002 legislative session.

The Commission agreed by consent to include a statement in the annual report that the Commission: (a) encourages the Department of Education to appreciate the increasing number of children in the educational system who have autism; (b) believes that teachers are not currently sufficiently prepared to

teach children with autism; and (c) encourages the Department of Education and Professional Standards Board to require autism training for teachers and expand ongoing training requirements to include autism training.

Meeting minutes for the Commission can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.state.in.us/legislative/>.